(d) The Government is aware of the developJJJSts regarding procurement of Defence items by our neighouring conutries. Tiie situation is constantly assessed and approi riate steps are taken to ensure full defence preparedness.

Marketing of weapons by Ordnance factories

2574. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Wi ! the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Ordnance Factories Organisation propo": .o sell non-prohibited weapons like rev. and pistols in open market, If so the d'. tails of the policy in this regard;

(b) whether it i:., also a fact that Defence vlniitry has decided to market its produ; s in the open to curb :'ie astronomical prices of the imported weapons, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether our weapons match the qi. ility and price of imDorted ones such as Wt bley Sco'.t and CoU, it' so, whether Government are a^o contemplating io export such weapons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI \ AI - LIKARJUN) : (a) and fb) Non-prohi nted bore weapons, namely 0. ɹ!5 sporting rill 12 bore double barrel breach loading (DDBL) gun have been sold in the open market for long. These are marketed through authorised de; lers. 0.32 revolver is not yet being sold in the jpen market to its limited production; this weapon is provided to certain specified categori s of persons in need of security.

(c) and (d) The weapons produced by ordnance factories are of assured quality. E;oor! of these weapons has not been made so f; r.

Protection of coastal belt

^2575. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHA ^JK-ER DAVE : Will the PRIME MINIS:ER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new strategy has been evolved for protection of the coastal ɾ>elt:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Saurashtra and Kuteh and other areas of the coastal belt in Gujarat have been given any special protection status in this regard;

. (d) whether instances of infiltration of terrorists in that State have been reported this year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE-MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALL-KARJUN) : (a) There is no change in the existing practice of patrolling of the coastal belt.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No instances of infiltration of terrorists in the State have come to the notice of Indian Navy and Coast Guard.

(<e) Does not arise.

Decline in strength of army

2576. SHRI SOM PAL ; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that India has position as the third largest army whereas Pakistan ha . arably increased its armed manpower- during the last few years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to keep a balance in the armed manpower strength to meet any eventuality ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) According to information available, there has been only a marginal accration to the stength of the Pakistani Army in the last five years. All developments impinging on our National Security are closely monitored by the Government for initiating appropriate and timely measures.

रूस से खरीदा गया सैनिक साज-सामान

2577. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी . क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) भारत द्वारा रूस से खरीदे जा रहे सैनिक साज-समान का ब्यौरा क्या है , और